

CLEVELAND NORML CHAPTER BYLAWS
Cleveland Sub-Chapter of the Ohio National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws
(NORML)

Date of Origin: November 6, 2008
Amended and Ratified: August 4th, 2010

Article I. Purpose

- A. It shall be the purpose of this organization to promote a better understanding of the following:
 - 1. The current status and changes in status of drug laws in the state of Ohio and in the United States.
 - 2. The medical, legal, environmental, economic, and civil libertarian arguments for re-legalization of marijuana in the laws of the state of Ohio and the United States.
 - 3. The policy options for marijuana regulation as delineated in the NORML Official Policy Statement.
- B. It is the opinion of this organization that the decision concerning the recreational use of marijuana is an individual one and should not be dictated by law. This organization and any member of this organization shall be expressly prohibited from advocating the use of marijuana or any legal or illegal drugs in any manner.
- C. This organization shall be affiliated with the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws (NORML), in accordance with the guidelines contained in the NORML Activist Program and Chapter Guidelines.

Article II. Membership

- A. The membership shall be divided into active and associate members.
 - 1. Only individuals whose chapter dues are up to date or who have performed an agreed upon service are considered active chapter members.
 - 2. Paid members of the National organization or any other NORML Chapter, who are not active members of the local chapter, shall be associate members. Associate members may not hold office, vote, preside, officiate, or solicit funds on behalf of the organization.
- B. It shall be the option of any member to have his or her name listed on the open rolls of the organization as John or Jane Doe and to be listed in a closed membership book for the purpose of membership certification. This book shall be available only to the officers of the organization.

The names of new active members shall be sent to Ohio NORML on a quarterly basis. Upon joining the chapter, active members shall receive a free one-year trial membership from the National office, and will be considered an associate member of Ohio NORML.

- C. To be considered, an individual must be at least 18 years of age, must submit a completed membership application and membership fee to the Membership Chairman.
- D. Dues: the dues shall be \$25.00 for new members and \$30.00 for new family members. For an extra \$10, the member will receive a NORML T-shirt.

ARTICLE III. Government

Section I – Executive Board/Officers

The Executive Board is comprised of four (4) elected officers.

Section II – Board of Directors

The government of this organization shall be vested in the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors will consist of the Executive Board and appointed Chairmen . A quorum shall consist of sixty percent or more of the Board of Directors. The Board shall meet quarterly or more often as needed. The President or 50 percent of the board can call meetings of the Board, and members of the Board shall be notified by the club’s secretary. The by-laws are established by a majority vote of the Board of Directors and are subject to change by any such quorum vote.

Section III – Removal from Office

The Board of Directors may remove a member of the Executive Board from office for the remainder of his/her term of office by a vote of sixty percent of the Board. Notification of the intended action must be given to each member of the Board thirty days prior to any vote. The board member being removed is to be given notification of reasons for removal 30 days prior to the possible removal, and have the opportunity to address the problem(s) for possible reconciliation; a probationary period can be established which would be at least the 30 days prior to the vote. Anyone who no longer wishes to serve on the Board of Directors, must submit a letter of resignation at least 2 weeks before leaving office. Once a request is made to the Board and accepted, the Board will hold an emergency meeting to appoint an interim member as soon as possible. The interim member will hold the appointed position until there is a vote by the entire membership.

A member of the Board of Directors may be removed from office if he or she misses more than two (2) Board Meetings or six (6) regular meetings in one (1) year of office.

ARTICLE IV. Duties of Officers

Only active members shall be eligible to serve as appointed officers.

The term of elected officers shall be from January through December of the following year.

Section I - President:

The President has authority concerning the administration of the organization. The President shall preside over all meetings of the organization and is Chairman of the Board. If an appropriate absence from a general meeting is unavoidable, he/she may designate a board member to preside over the meeting. He/she shall appoint chairmen as required in certain positions upon board approval.

Section II - Vice President:

The Vice President shall perform the duties of the President in his absence and shall assume such duties as may be delegated to him/her by the President and/or a consensus of the board. The Vice President is expected to utilize what skills and resources they are willing to provide, to advance the goals and tasks of the organization. His/her duties shall include corresponding with Ohio NORML, the National NORML, and other Ohio NORML Chapters. These rights of correspondence may also be

granted to other board members upon board approval but do not negate the Vice Presidents' responsibility to oversee communications with said organizations.

Section III - Secretary:

The Secretary shall take minutes of all Board meetings and business meetings of the organization and forward said documents to the Board of Directors. The Secretary shall be responsible for all business correspondence, taking attendance at meetings, and related tasks. The secretary may elect an assistant, however said assistant is not a voting board member.

Section IV - Treasurer:

The Treasurer shall have the responsibility of all organization funds, and will be authorized to sign organization checks. The treasurer shall maintain accurate records of all disbursements from, and credits to, the organization checking account. The Treasurer shall present a current statement of income and disbursement at each Executive Board meeting, and quarterly to Ohio NORML. A second member must be appointed by the Treasurer to maintain the authorization to sign checks.

Section V - Officer Vacancies:

In the event of a vacancy of a board position the following procedures may be take by the board.

- a) The holding of general elections to fill the board vacancy
- b) The appointment of an interim board member upon board approval. The board may elect to conduct an interview process before such an appointment.

Section VI - Interim Positions:

All appointed interim board members retain the same rights and privileges as dually elected board members with the following exception; For the first 3 months of said Interim Board member's service, the board may elect to terminate the individual from their position for any cause at any time. This is hereby designated an "Interim Probationary Period." After 3 months have passed since appointment, standards of due cause and procedure for dismissal are equivalent to that of any elected board member.

Section VII - Appointed Offices:

Chairmen shall be approved by the president with a majority vote of the Board of Directors and will be a voting member of the Board.

ARTICLE V. Meetings

The organization will have meetings at least once a month. The date, time, and location will be determined by the Board of Directors and given to the members within 7 days after each meeting. The Board will meet quarterly, or more often as required; date, time and place will be determined by the Executive Board.

ARTICLE VI. Voting

- A. Only active members may vote.
- B. The quorum is sixty percent and the majority is 50 percent plus one of the active members present.

- C. When unable to attend, a proxy may be designated to vote in the member's absence. The board must be notified beforehand of any such proxies.
- D. The Executive Board will be voted at the annual meeting; nominations for Executive Board positions will be taken 30 days prior to the annual meeting and up to the day of the annual meeting.
- E. The Board must have quorum to pass any motion.

ARTICLE VII. Finances

- A. All funds are to be deposited and handled through a checking account at an FCC Certified financial institution under the name of the Chapter.
- B. Each active member shall pay annual dues.
- C. All finances shall be used only for Chapter business dealings and associated expenses.
- D. An Income & expense report will be submitted on a quarterly basis to Ohio NORML.

ARTICLE VIII. Amendments

- A. Any member may introduce an amendment to these bylaws at the conclusion of any meeting. The Board of Directors shall vote on the amendment at the following Board meeting.
- B. Passage of the amendment requires a majority vote.
- C. A copy of the bylaws will be submitted to Ohio NORML after any revisions.